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*ducere*, to extend, bring forth : *prō-*, forward; see *pro-* + *ducere*, to lead; see *deuk-*.] — *pro-duc'* / *ī*·ble, *pro-duce'* / *a*·ble *adj.*

**Syns:** *produce*, *bear*, *yield*. The central meaning shared by these verbs is "to bring forth as a product": *a mine producing gold; a seed that bore fruit; a plant that yields gum*.  
**pro-duc'er** (prō-dōb'sər, -dyōb'-, prō-) *n.* 1. One that produces, esp. a person or an organization that produces goods or services for sale. 2. One who finances and supervises the making and public presentation of a play, film, or similar work. 3. A furnace that manufactures producer gas. 4. *Ecol.* A photosynthetic green plant or chemosynthetic bacterium, constituting the first trophic level in a food chain; an autotrophic organism.

**producer gas** *n.* A combustible mixture of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen, generated by passing air with steam over burning coke or coal in a furnace and used as fuel.

**producer goods** *pl.n.* Goods, such as raw materials and tools, used to make consumer goods.

**prod-uct** (prōd'əkt) *n.* 1. Something produced by human or mechanical effort or by a natural process. 2. A direct result; a consequence. 3. *Chem.* A substance resulting from a chemical reaction. 4. *Math.* a. The number or quantity obtained by multiplying two or more numbers together. b. A scalar product. c. A vector product. [ME, result of multiplication, produced < Med.Lat. *productum*, result of multiplication < neut. p.part. of Lat. *prōducere*, to bring forth. See *PRODUCE*.]  
**pro-duc-tion** (prō-dūkt'shən, prō-) *n.* 1. a. The act or process of producing: *the production of lumber*. b. The fact or process of being produced: *a movie in production*. 2. The creation of value or wealth by producing goods and services. 3. Something produced; a product. 4. An amount or quantity produced; output. 5. a. A work of art or literature. b. A work produced for the stage, screen, television, or radio. c. A staging or presentation of a theatrical work. 6. An exaggerated spectacle or display. — *pro-duc'tion*·al *adj.*

**production line** *n.* See *assembly line* 1.  
**pro-duc-tive** (prō-dūkt'iv, prō-) *adj.* 1. Producing or capable of producing. 2. Producing abundantly; fertile. 3. Yielding favorable or useful results; constructive. 4. *Econ.* Of or involved in the creation of goods and services to produce wealth or value. 5. Effective in achieving specified results; originaive. 6. *Medic.* a. Producing mucus or sputum. b. Forming new tissue: *a productive inflammation*. 7. *Ling.* a. Of or relating to the linguistic skills of speaking and writing. b. Of or relating to a morphological or morphophonemic element that is freely used in the creation of new derivatives. — *pro-duc'tive*·ly *adv.* — *pro-duc'tive*·ness *n.*

**pro-duc-tiv-i-ty** (prō-dūkt'iv'i-tē, prōd'əkt-) *n.* 1. The quality of being productive. 2. *Econ.* The rate at which goods or services are produced, esp. output per unit of labor. 3. *Ecol.* The rate at which radiant energy is used by producers to form organic substances as food for consumers.  
**pro-em** (prō'em) *n.* An introduction; a preface. [ME *proheme* < OFr. < Lat. *prooemium* < Gk. *prooimion* : *pro-*, before; see *pro-* + *oimē*, song.] — *pro-e'mi*·al (prō-ē'mē-əl, -ēm'ē-) *adj.*

**pro-en-zyme** (prō-ēn'zim) *n.* The precursor of an enzyme, converted into an active enzyme by proteolysis.  
**pro-es-trus** (prō-ēs'trəs) *n.* The period immediately before estrus in most female mammals, characterized by development of the endometrium and ovarian follicles.  
**prof** (prōf) *n.* Informal. A professor.  
**prof.** *abbr.* Professional.  
**prof-a-na-tion** (prōf'ā-nā'shən) *n.* The act or an instance of profaning; desecration.

**pro-fane** (prō-fān', prā-) *adj.* 1. Marked by contempt or irreverence for what is sacred: *profane words*. 2. Nonreligious in subject matter, form, or use; secular. 3. Not admitted into a body of secret knowledge or ritual; uninitiated. 4. Vulgar; coarse. — *tr.v.* -fane-d, -fan-ing, -fanes. 1. To treat with irreverence. 2. To put to an improper, unworthy, or degrading use; abuse. [ME *prophane* < OFr. < Lat. *profānus* < *prō fānō*, ablative of *fānum*, temple; see *dhēs-*.] — *pro-fan'*·a-to-ry (prō-fān'ā-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē, prā-) *adj.* — *pro-fane'*·ly *adv.* — *pro-fane'*·ness *n.* — *pro-fan'er* *n.*

**pro-fan-i-ty** (prō-fān'i-tē, prā-) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. The condition or quality of being profane. 2. a. Abusive, vulgar, or irreverent language. b. The use of such language.

**pro-fess** (prō-fēs', prō-) *v.* -fessed, -fess-ing, -fess-es. — *tr.* 1. To affirm openly; declare or claim. 2. To make a pretense of; pretend. 3. To claim skill in or knowledge of: *profess medicine*. 4. To affirm belief in: *profess Catholicism*. 5. To receive into a religious order or congregation. — *intr.* 1. To make an open affirmation. 2. To take the vows of a religious order or congregation. [ME *professen*, to take vows < OFr. *profes*, that has taken a religious vow < Med.Lat. *professus*, avowed] and < Med.Lat. *professare*, to administer a vow, both < Lat. *professus*, p.part. of *profiteri*, to affirm openly : *pro-*, forth; see *pro-* + *fateri*, to acknowledge; see *dhā-*.] — *pro-fess'*·ed·ly (-fēs'id-lē) *adv.*

**pro-fes-sion** (prō-fesh'ən) *n.* 1. An occupation requiring considerable training and specialized study: *the profession*. 2. The body of qualified persons in an occupation. 3. An act or instance of professing; a declaration of faith or belief. 5. A faith or belief.

**pro-fes-sion-al** (prō-fesh'ə-nəl) *adj.* 1. a. Of, relating to, or suitable for a profession: *professional ethics*. b. Conforming to the standards of a profession: *professionalism*. 2. Engaging in a given activity as a source of income or as a career. 3. Performed by persons receiving pay for living in a given or implied occupation. 3. A skilled person; an expert. — *pro-fes'sion-al*·ly *adv.*

**pro-fes-sion-al-ism** (prō-fesh'ə-nəl-iz'm) *n.* 1. Professional status, methods, character, or standards. 2. The use of professional performers, as in athletics or in the arts.  
**pro-fes-sion-al-ize** (prō-fesh'ə-nəl-iz') *tr.v.* -ized, -izes. To make professional. — *pro-fes'sion-al-iz'*·ation (prō-fesh'ə-nəl-iz-ā'shən) *n.*

**pro-fes-sor** (prō-fēs'ər) *n.* 1. a. A college or university instructor who ranks above an associate professor. b. A teacher. 2. One who professes. [ME *professor* < Lat. *professor* < *professus*, p.part. of *profiteri*, to profess. See *PROFESS*.] — *pro-fes-so-ri*·al (prō-fēs-sōr'i-əl, prōf'ī-) *adj.* — *pro-fes-so-ri*·al·ly *adv.* — *pro-fes-sor*·ship' *n.*

**pro-fes-so-ri-ate** or **pro-fes-so-ri-at** (prō-fēs-sōr'i-āt, prōf'ī-) *n.* 1. The rank or office of a professor. 2. A college or university professors considered as a group.  
**prof-fer** (prōf'ər) *tr.v.* -ferred, -fer-ing, -fers. To offer; acceptance; tender. See *Syns* at *offer*. — *n.* The act of offering; an offer. [ME *proffren* < OFr. *poroffrir*, *proffir*, to offer (< Lat. *prō-*, forward; see *pro-*) + *offir*, to offer (< Lat. *ferre*; see *offer*).] — *prof'fer*·er *n.*

**pro-fi-cien-cy** (prō-fish'ən-sē) *n., pl. -cies*. The state or quality of being proficient; competence.

**pro-fi-cient** (prō-fish'ənt) *adj.* Having or marked by a advanced degree of competence, as in an art. — *n.* An expert; adept. [Lat. *proficiens*, *proficient*, p.part. of *proficere*, to make progress. See *PROFIT*.] — *pro-fi-cient*·ly *adv.*

**Syns:** *proficient*, *adept*, *skilled*, *skillful*, *expert*. These adjectives mean having or showing knowledge, ability, or skill, as in a profession or field of study. *Proficient* implies a advanced degree of competence acquired through training or practice in Greek and Latin. *Adept* suggests a natural aptitude improved by practice: *adept at cutting straight*. *Skilled* implies sound, thorough competence and often expertise: *a skilled craftsman*. *Skilled* adds to *skilled* the idea of manual dexterity in performance or achievement: *skilled use of the loom*. *Expert* applies to one with consummate skill and command: *expert in her playing*.

**pro-file** (prō'fil') *n.* 1. a. A side view of an object or a figure, esp. of the human head. b. A representation of an object or a structure seen from the side. 2. An outline of an object. See *Syns* at *outline*. 3. Degree of exposure to public visibility: *kept a low profile*. 4. A biographical essay giving the subject's most noteworthy characteristics and achievements. 5. A formal summary or analysis of data representing distinctive features or characteristics. 6. *Geol.* A vertical section of soil or rock showing the sequence of the various layers. — *tr.v.* -fil-ed, -fil-ing, -files. 1. To draw or shape a profile. 2. To produce a profile of. [Ital. *profilo* < *profilare*, to draw in outline : *pro-*, forward (< Lat. *prō-*; see *pro-*) + *filare*, to draw a line (< Lat. *filare*, to spin < Lat. *filum*, thread; see *fil-*).] — *pro'fil*·er *n.*

**prof-it** (prōf'it) *n.* 1. An advantageous gain or return, esp. on goods in short supply. — *tr.v.* -it-ed, -it-ing, -its. 2. The return on a business undertaking after all expenses have been met. 3. a. The return on an investment after all charges have been paid. b. The rate of increase in net worth of a business enterprise in a given accounting period. c. Income from investments or property. d. The amount received for a commodity or service in excess of the cost. — *v.* -it-ed, -it-ing, -its. — *intr.* 1. To make a profit. 2. To derive advantage; benefit. — *tr.* To benefit; to. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *proficetus* < p.part. of *proficere*, to progress, to profit : *pro-*, forward; see *pro-* + *fateri*, to make; see *dhē-*.] — *prof'it*·less *adj.*

**prof-it-a-ble** (prōf'it-ə-bəl) *adj.* Yielding profit; advantageous or lucrative. See *Syns* at *beneficial*. — *prof'it-a-ble*·ly *adv.*

**prof'it-a-ble-ness** *n.* — *prof'it-a-ble*·ness *adj.*

**profit and loss** *n.* Accounting. An account showing net profit and loss over a given period.

**prof-it-er** (prōf'it-ər) *n.* One who makes excessive profit on goods in short supply. — *prof'it-er*·y *n.*

**prof-it-er-ole** (prōf'it-ər-ōl') *n.* A small round object, as a coin. [Fr., perh. dim. of *profiter*, to profit < OFr. < *proficere*. See *PROFIT*.]

**profit shar-ing** (shār'ing) *n.* A system by which employees receive a share of the profits of a business enterprise.

**prof-it-gate** (prōf'it-gāt') *adj.* 1. Given over to dissipation; dissolute. 2. Recklessly wasteful; wildly extravagant.

A profligate person; a wastrel. [Lat. *profligare*, to ruin, cast down : *prō-*, forward; see *pro-* + *fligare*, intensive of *fligare*, to strike down.] — *prof'it-gate*·ly *adv.*

**prof'it-gate-ty** *n.* 1. Done as a form of contempt. 2. Provided in advance so as to prescribe terms. [NLat. *prō forma* : *prō*, for the sake of; *forma*, form.]

**pro-found** (prō-faund', prō-) *adj.* -er, -est. 1. Deep; extending to, or coming from, a great depth; deep. 2. Coming as if from the depths of one's mind; profound. 3. Thoroughgoing; far-reaching; beyond what is superficial or obvious. 4. Deeply contemplative: *a profound silence*. [ME *profoude* < Lat. *profundus* : *prō-*, before; see *pro-* + *fundus*, deep.] — *pro-found*·ly *adv.* — *pro-found*·ness *n.*

**pro-fun-di-ty** (prō-fūn'di-tē, prō-) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. Depth of intellect, feeling, or meaning. 2. Depth of sound or abstruse. [ME *profundite* < OFr. *profundus* < Lat. *profundus*, deep. See *PROFOUND*.]  
**pro-fuse** (prō-fyūs', prō-) *adj.* 1. Plentiful; copious; given freely and abundantly; extravagant. [ME *profusus*, p.part. of *profundere*, to pour; see *pro-* + *fundere*, to pour; see *gh-*.] — *pro-fuse*·ly *adv.* — *pro-fuse*·ness *n.*

**pro-gen-i-tion** (prō-fyōō'zhən, prō-) *n.* 1. The state of being a progenitor. 2. Lavish or unrestrained expenditure. 3. A profuse outpouring or quantity.  
**pro-gen-i-tor** (prō-jen'it-ər) *n.* 1. A direct ancestor. 2. An originator of a line of descent. 3. An originator; a founder. [Ult. < Lat. *pro-gignere*, gen-, to beget; to beget : *pro-*, before; see *pro-* + *gignere*, gen-, to beget; see *gena-*.]

**pro-gen-y** (prō-jen'ē) *n., pl. progeny* or *-nies*. 1. Offspring; or, derived from another; an offspring. 2. Offspring or descendants considered collectively. 3. A result of creative effort; a product. [Ult. *progenie* < Lat. *progenies* < *pro-gignere*, to beget.]

**pro-ger-i-a** (prō-jēr'ē-ə) *n.* A rare congenital condition, characterized by rapid onset of the physical signs of old age, usu. resulting in death before age 40. [Gk. *geras*, old age; see *GERIATRICS* + *pro-*.]  
**pro-ges-ta-tion-al** (prō-jēs-tā'shən-əl) *adj.* 1. Characteristic of the phase of the menstrual cycle immediately preceding ovulation, characterized by secretion of progesterone and its actions. 2. Having to do with progesterone. Used of a drug.

**pro-ges-ter-one** (prō-jēs'tə-rōn') *n.* 1. A steroid hormone, secreted by the corpus luteum of the ovary and the placenta, that acts to prepare the uterus for implantation of a fertilized ovum, maintain pregnancy, and stimulate the mammary glands. 2. A drug preparation of synthetic progesterone, used to prevent or treat menstrual disorders. [PRO- + *gest* (ACTION).] — *pro-ges-ter-one*·ly *adv.*

**pro-ges-tin** (prō-jēs'tin) *n.* 1. A progestational substance that acts like progesterone. 2. A crude hormone of the placenta from which progesterone can be isolated. 3. A hormone in scientific use. [PRO- + *gest* (ACTION).]  
**pro-ges-to-gen** (prō-jēs'tə-jən) *n.* Any of various substances that produce progestational effects; a progestin.

**pro-glōt-tid** (prō-glōt'id) *n.* Also **pro-glōt-tis** (-glōt'id) also **pro-glōt-ti-des** (-glōt'id-ēz'). One of a tapeworm, containing both male and female reproductive organs. [Gk. *proglottis*, *proglottis*, to beget (< its shape) : *pro-*, before; see *pro-* + *glōt*, to beget.] — *pro-glōt'tic*, *pro-glōt'ti-de'an* (-glōt'id-ē-ən) *adj.*

**pro-gnath** (prōg'nā-thəs, prōg'nā-) *adj.* Also **pro-gnath-ic**, **pro-gnath-ic** (-nā'thik) *adj.* Having jaws that project to a marked degree. — *pro-gnath-ism* (-nā'th-iz'm) *n.* — *pro-gnath-ic*·ly *adv.*  
**pro-gnō-sis** (prōg-nō'sis) *n., pl. -ses* (-sēz). 1. a. A forecast of the probable course and outcome of a disease. b. A forecast of recovery from a disease. 2. A forecast or prediction. [Gk. < *prognōskein*, to foreknow; see *pro-* + *gnōskein*, to know; see *gnō-*.] — *pro-gnō-sis*·tic (prōg-nōs'tik) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or predicting a future event; predictive. 2. Of or relating to prediction; predictive. 3. A sign or symptom indicating the future course of a disease. 4. A sign of a future happening; a portent.

**pro-gnos-tic** (prōg-nōstik) *n.* 1. A person or thing that predicts or prognosticates. 2. A sign of a future happening; a portent. 3. A prognosticating omen (< Med.Lat. *prognosticus*, both < Gk. *prognōstikos* < *prognōskein*, to foreknow. See *PROGNOSIS*.)

**pro-gnos-ti-cate** (prōg-nōs'tī-kāt') *tr.v.* -cat-ed, -cat-ing. 1. To predict according to present indications. 2. To foreshadow; portend. [ME *pronosticare*, *prognosticare* < Lat. *prognōsticare*, to predict; see *pro-* + *gnōsticare*, to know. See *PROGNOSIS*.] — *pro-gnos-ti-cate*·ly *adv.* — *pro-gnos-ti-cate*·or *n.*

**pro-gnos-tic-a-tion** (prōg-nōs'tī-kā-shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of predicting or prognosticating. 2. A prediction or prognostication. 3. A sign or symptom indicating the future course of a disease. 4. A sign of a future happening; a portent.

**pro-gnos-tic-a-tive** *adj.* — *pro-gnos-tic-a-tive*·ly *adv.* — *pro-gnos-tic-a-tive*·ness *n.*



profile  
Portrait of Bianca Maria  
Sforza by Giovanni de Predis  
(1450? - 1520?)